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London, Saturday, May 11.

## Intercolonial Preferential Trade.

The British Trade Journal, discussing the question of preferential trade between Canada and Australia, says: "Canadian manufacturers produce many classes of goods which the new Australasian Commonwealth could exchange for its own special commodities, and such business would no doubt be facilitated by a tariff giving Canadian manufacturers an advantage in Australia, and Australian farmers and mine owners similar advantages in British North America. The proposal would, however, be also considered from an international and a British point of view."

"Must" is a strong word. The Great Britain refuses to enter into any preferential arrangement with the colonies, that is her business. If the colonies find it advantageous to enter into an intercolonial preference that is their business, and it would hardly be fair, while the colonies obtain no advantage from Great Britain, that she should insist upon special advantages from the colonies. Probably an intercolonial preferential tariff agreement would be the best method of forcing upon the attention of the mother country the mutual advantage to the empire generally of closer trade relations.—Ottawa Citizen.

We quote the above because it emphasizes a phase of the preferential trade discussion. It would not be reasonable for the mother country to object to a well-considered scheme of preferential trade between Canada and Australia. Such an arrangement would have the effect of binding these two great outlying portions of the Empire closer together, and in that regard would be a benefit to the whole Empire, as well as to the commonwealths concerned. Nor do we think, the British Trade Journal's view notwithstanding, that the people of the United Kingdom would seriously oppose such intercolonial preferential trade. The mother country gave its sanction to the customs union which at one time existed between Natal, Cape Colony and the Dutch Republics in South Africa. It would be no greater stretch to concede the right of two sections of the Empire like Canada and Australia, to arrive at a tariff agreement whereby each should have special privileges in the markets of the other. We know that Canadians are ready to consider any feasible scheme that may be brought forward. When Hon. William Mulock, Postmaster-General, who is now participating in the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth, as a delegate from the Dominion, returns to Canada, we will probably hear more on this subject, though it may be doubted if the new Government of United Australia will be prepared to take the question up immediately. The setting in motion of a confederation of the size of Australia, with its multifarious interests, not always without friction, is a task that must necessarily occupy the best attention of the Federal Government for some time, perhaps to the exclusion of outside interests, no matter how important. But it can do no harm for us all to get familiarized with the importance of intercolonial, if not imperial preferential trade.

It will be observed that our Ottawa Conservative contemporary ventures the opinion that an intercolonial preferential tariff agreement "would be the best means of forcing upon the attention of the mother country the mutual advantage to the Empire generally of closer trade relations." The Ottawa Opposition newspaper apparently does not agree with those Conservative leaders who have been endeavoring to make the people believe that the Canadian Government had only to "hold up" the British Government, and it would consent to revolutionize its trade policy by agreeing to tax all food products imported from other countries than the Dominion sister colonies who might follow our example. The Citizen is right. Great Britain is not convinced that such a momentous change would be to her advantage; at all events, so long as Canada and other sections of the Empire are not prepared to accept free trade within the Empire, and a tariff for all foreigners. And it has really been a waste of time of Parliament, and of the Canadian people, to argue as if the British people could be forced by any action which Canada might take to overturn her present system. The change cannot be effected by "force," whether applied by Canada or any other portion of the Empire. It must come from the conviction of the majority of the British people that it would be to their benefit. Therefore, as we have before pointed out, the missionary work of the Canadian Opposition ought to be undertaken in Great Britain, not in Canada, where all of us are ready to receive any special advantage in the British market, in addition to our present liberal treatment, that the people of the motherland are prepared to concede. But to talk of "forcing" the British people, who have done and are doing so well by us, in the matter of defense, and of providing us a free market for all that we have to sell, is to deal most cavalierly with the center of the Empire.

Morgan of today is causing as much sensation as the Morgan who disappeared in the Masonic uproar many years ago.

## Very Costly, But Necessary.

In the last half century, the British people paid off \$1,000,000,000 of the national debt. Within the past eighteen months, however, the national debt has been added to by \$625,000,000. It did not matter to Great Britain if the suppression of the trouble in South Africa, and the re-establishment of order and justice in that land cost double that amount, it would have been paid. Not willingly, perhaps, but with the dogged determination to maintain what they believe to be their rights, and in the best interests of the human race, which has always characterized the British people. There are no doubt differences of opinion as to the causes that led up to the war, but there can be no doubt as to the bad treatment of British subjects by the government of the Transvaal, or as to the unprovoked invasion of Natal and Cape Colony by Kruger and his associates. Britain had to re-establish peace and good government throughout South Africa, no matter the cost, or confess that she was a fifth-rate power.

## Birth Rate of Ontario and Quebec.

According to the Toronto Telegram, "Quebec's net birth rate is little, if at all, in excess of Ontario's birth rate."

A study of the statistics leads our contemporary to these conclusions:

"More children are born in Quebec. More people die in Quebec. Fewer children are born in Ontario. Fewer people die in Ontario."

"Quebec has the additional advantage of absolute accuracy in the registration of births. The baptismal records of the Roman Catholic Church are virtually a complete record of every child born in the Province. There has been great carelessness in the registration of births in Ontario, and in the year 1897 the records of birth rates between the provinces stood thus:

"Birth rate per 1,000 population:

"Quebec—35.09. Ontario—20.04."

"Thus 14.05 children per 1,000 of population are born every year more in Quebec than in Ontario."

"This enormous excess of births in Quebec is to some extent offset by an almost equally enormous excess of deaths as compared with Ontario. The figures for 1897 are:

"Death rate per 1,000 of population:

"Quebec—21.07. Ontario—12.02."

"Thus Quebec loses by death every year 9.05 people per thousand more than Ontario."

"Allowing for the difference in the death rate between the two provinces Quebec's net gain from excess of births over Ontario is 5 per 1,000 of population. This difference would be reduced or altogether wiped out if the registration of births in Ontario were as thorough and accurate as the registration of births in Quebec."

There is probably good foundation for the Telegram's conclusions. A friend of ours who made a study of the birth and the death rate of the respective Provinces, after last census, came to this conclusion: Quebec mothers give birth, on the average, to almost twice as many children as Ontario mothers. But through one cause or another so much greater is the mortality among children born in Quebec families, that before the youngest child is 21 years of age, the number of the living offspring of the average Quebec mother is in reality no greater than that of the Ontario mother, who started in the race with only half as many.

We await with interest the disclosures which the census of 1901 will make with regard to these matters.

## Is the Little Church Neglected?

Reports to the recent Presbyterian Synod of Hamilton and London state that 30,000 children are out of the Sunday schools, who might naturally be expected to be in them. Is the church, generally, at work chiefly at the wrong end? Is it paying greater attention to adults than to children? Is the Little Church not really of more importance, in its relation to the future, than the Big Church? Yet in what way is this fact being practically recognized?

## Reciprocity in Rascals.

About one-third of the Dominion of Canada is unexplored and practically unknown, which shows that she still has room to accommodate a goodly number of cashiers who may get to be too wealthy to live in the States.—Boston Herald.

Time was when there was a perfect reciprocity in defaulters of all kinds between these two countries. All that a thief had to do was to take care not to forge when he stole and to hide the "swag" as soon as he adopted the neighboring country as his place of abode, and no process of law could reach him. Since, however, the extradition laws were extended to embrace embezzlement and vulgar larceny, both countries have willingly reciprocated in handing back to each other their respective rascals almost as soon as they were discovered. Canada is no longer the Promised Land of the cashiers of the United States, who get too suddenly rich, and the United States furnishes no city of refuge for the Canadian who wishes to live by his wits on ill-gotten gains. It is just as well. The knowledge that reciprocity in rascal extradition exists, is a powerful aid to keeping men who are tempted honest.

Dr. Marcus Dods, the distinguished Scottish divine, is now on this continent. Dr. Dods occupies an eminent place among the great preachers and theologians of Great Britain. He has won rare distinction as a professor in the most prominent theological college in Scotland. While in America, Professor Dods will deliver two courses of lectures, one on the Gospel of John, and the other on the Epistle to the Hebrews, at the Bible College of Montclair, New Jersey.

## Industrial Conditions in France.

Mr. F. Charmes, who writes—"The Chronicle of the Fortnight" in the Revue des Deux Mondes," on the 25th of February, deals with the question of strikes. He declares that since the present Cabinet has had charge of affairs there has always been a strike somewhere. He does not charge the ministry with being directly responsible for this state of affairs. Have they not admitted a Socialist into the Cabinet, and should not the "lower classes" be thankful for that. Perhaps the lower classes ought to be very thankful, but they do not look at it in exactly that light. When you put a Socialist into your Cabinet, the poor people expect great things, and, alas! no one Minister can do much, and it is hard even for the Government to work miracles to give all the people bread and give them contentment. At any rate one great strike has followed another, and there are threats of an almost universal strike. The correspondent follows the matter up in detail, and discusses the industrial problem from many sides. We cannot follow him through this interesting course, but we note that France, like other European countries, has great industrial problems. We say European countries, not because such problems are altogether absent here, but rather because they exist in a sharper, more distressing form there. We judge from the statements made that there is in France just now something electric in the industrial atmosphere, and that this partly arises from the close connection between political and industrial questions. Strikes seem to break out easily, and in some cases the strike assumes the form of an attempt at revolution. Revolutions are difficult in these days, so long as the soldiers obey the orders given to them, so the people, when they see that no headway is to be made by violence, go back cowed and sullen; but the slumbering feeling is ready to explode again on the slightest provocation. When a strike breaks out, a general appeal is made in the name of brotherhood, and at first the subscriptions come in quite freely and merrily. The following statement will give us an idea of the views of the general committee of the miners. Apart from the particular grievance, the following general demands are made: In one resolution the committee decrees a general strike, but as the time is not fixed, that may be averted; in the meantime, it is simply a threat to compel the Government to act:

1. A pension of 2 francs per day after 25 years of service, without conditions as to age, and proportional in case of incapacity for work.

2. A fixed day of eight hours, including the time of going down and coming up.

3. The establishment of a minimum wage fixed by the "federations syndicales" of the district. If this is not granted, they call upon the Government to take speedy measures to compel the companies to accede to this request. They do not want arbitration, as it has always turned out to the profit of the workman. Answer is expected, or, at least, demanded, in time for the next National Congress of Miners, which takes place on the 15th of May. From this it will be seen that the industrial world in France is agitated in many ways, and that wisdom and care will be needed in order to avoid widespread conflict and consequent misery. We trust that all parties will show tact and good feeling, and that France will emerge from such troubles stronger and more united. But it is just as well, when we have small troubles of our own, and when the Empire has to face special difficulties, for us to remember that this restless, changeable life is the common lot of nations.

James Hill, the great railway magnate, is a Canadian Old Boy. When our boys go anywhere they take second place to no one.

"Chatham needs mineral baths," exclaims the Banner-News. All right; let the Chathamites come up to London, and we will give them the finest mineral bath they can get on the continent.

The famous "majority of one" has now been located, and it is in the Quebec Legislative Council. Last week the Conservatives had it; then Mr. Ross died; now the Liberals have it. All things come to those who wait.

## Forgiveness.

[Leighton.]

Forgive thyself little, and others much.

## Sowing and Reaping.

[E. D. Boardman.]

Sow an act, and you reap a habit; sow a habit, and you reap a character; sow a character, and you reap a destiny.

In the spring the birds are singing. As they build their summer home, Blades of grass and buds are springing. O'er the mead the cattle roam. In the spring your blood is freighted With the germs that cause disease. Humors, boils, are designated. Signals warning you of these. In the spring that tired feeling Makes you feel like begging, stealing. Rather than engage in work. But there's something known that will a.

Man to health and vigor lead. You will find Hood's Sarsaparilla. Just exactly what you need.

Things don't turn up in this world until somebody turns them up.—Garfield.

BILIOUSNESS BURDENS LIFE.—The bilious man is never a companionable man because his ailments render him morose and gloomy. It is disagreeable. Yet no one need suffer from it who can procure Paree's Vegetable Pills. By regulating the liver and obviating the effects of bile in the stomach they restore men to cheerfulness and full vigor of action.

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## Swiss Shams, 75c, for 35c

65 only, Swiss Embroidered Pillow Shams, slightly imperfect, regular price 75c; special to clear, 35c.

## Ladies' Hose, 2 for 25c

1,000 pairs Ladies' Fast Black Seamless Cotton Hose, all sizes; special today and to clear, 2 for 25c.

## Girls' Hats, 40c to 75c, for 25c

250 Girls' Straw Hats, new shapes, good quality, worth regularly 40c to 75c; special today and to clear, 25c.

## Silk Ribbon, 35c, for 15c

500 yards Pure White Silk Ribbon, fancy edge, regular price 35c; special today and to clear, 15c.

## Linen Towels, 18c, for 12½c

120 White Huck Linen Towels, size 23x47, extra weight, regular price 18c; special to clear, 12½c.

## Silk Ribbons, 50c, for 25c

450 yards Pure Silk Ribbon, 6 inches wide, white, navy, cyano, green and yellow, regular price 50c; special today to clear, 25c.

## Ladies' Skirts, \$1.50, for \$1.19

30 only, Ladies' Sateen Skirts, in black, cerise, blue and cardinal 3 ruffles, regular price \$1.50, special today and to clear, \$1.19.

## White Envelopes, 10c, for 5c

200 packages of a good Cream Laid White Envelope, sold everywhere for 10c; special today and to clear, 5c.

## Pattern Hats

50 very swell Hats, were trimmed to show expertness of our modistes. This object attained, we clear them at \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5 below their actual value.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

On Monday and following days we will present with each and every purchase of goods amounting to \$2 a STREET RAILWAY TICKET, entitling bearer to a trip to Springbank and return. Watch Monday's papers for full particulars.

## THOS. ENGLISH THEIR CHOICE.

West Middlesex Conservatives Nominate the Ex-Reeve of Wardsville.

Close Contest Between Mr. English and Robert Lucas at the Mount Brydges Convention.

Mr. Thomas English, ex-reeve of Wardsville, is the choice of the Conservatives of West Middlesex as their candidate to oppose Premier Ross in the coming provincial election. The nomination was made at the convention in the Caradoc town hall, Mount Brydges, yesterday.

Among the other gentlemen nominated were Robert McLaughlin, the well-known Moss cattle buyer; Reeve Galbraith, of Ekfrid; Robert Lucas, councillor, of Caradoc; George Lewis, of Metcalfe; Richard Dunlop, of Napier; Mr. Wilson, of Wardsville; Harry Pope, barrister, Strathroy; John H. McDougall, Middlemiss; Richard Gibson, Delaware; John M. Cornell, Glenora, and E. J. Currie. Each nominee expressed his thanks for the honor done him. Mr. Robert Lucas went to the convention with Mr. English, and the former's popularity made the contest in convention an interesting one. When the scrutineers announced the result, Mr. Lucas proposed that the nomination of Mr. English be made unanimous. This the convention did.

Mr. English returned to the convention his warmest thanks. He had not anticipated being the representative of the Conservative party. He accepted gladly, however. He would do what he could, fully cognizant of the responsibility he was accepting. He felt confident of their hearty support. With it, he entertained no doubt that the party would win back the riding of West Middlesex.

Short speeches were also made by president Dunlop, ex-Warden Leitch, Mr. John Morgan, Capt. Garnet, Mr. Pultord, Mr. William Young, Mr. A. W. Wright, Conservative organizer. The convention dispersed with cheers for the King, Mr. Whitney, Mr. Borland, Mr. English and the president.

Mr. John McIntosh, of Strathroy, acted as secretary.

## Letters to the Editor.

To the Editor of The Advertiser:

In this morning's Free Press I noticed an item alleging that I had been compelled to flee from Mr. Shaw's premises on Wednesday last. The information is entirely mistaken as to the circumstances, for, as the result of my visit to Mr. Shaw's premises an amicable settlement has been reached, whereby all parties have been satisfied, and I have been well paid for my services, and my employers think I have earned my money well.

It seems to have become a favorite theme with the Free Press that I have allowed prisoners to escape. I wish to say publicly two things about this, first, that no prisoner ever escaped

from me whom I did not rearrest and land in jail. Second, it is not pleasant to have thrust upon me by the press the responsibility for the escape of a prisoner who never was in my charge and never was arrested by me. Yours truly, WILLIAM SADDLEIR, London, May 10, 1901.

## THE HOLOCAUST NEAR HEDDLEVILLE.

Preliminary Examination of Parton, Charged With Murdering His Five Children, Not Yet Concluded.

Parry Sound, Ont., May 10.—The proceedings in the preliminary trial of Joseph Parton, charged with the murder of his five children in connection with the fire at his farm near Heddleville, on April 30, began with Police Magistrate Farer at the court house here yesterday. W. L. Haight, district crown attorney, appeared for the crown, and F. R. Howell, of Parry Sound, for the prisoner.

The evidence of Mrs. Parton, wife of the accused, also that of the two sons, who were the occupants of the house on the night of the fire, was taken. Nothing was elicited from these witnesses of a damaging character to the husband and father, and all appeared to be quite unable to explain the origin of the fire, or to advance any reason whatever for its occurrence. The boys seemed disposed to modify statements made by them at the inquest as to the father's cruelty and harshness towards themselves and other members of the family.

The suspicion of foul play on the part of the old man seems to rest, first, on the fact of the fire occurring just as it did, and that the building must have been set on fire deliberately.

The assumption that the old man was tired of his family, and wanted to be rid of them, because they were a nuisance to him. He had sold the place and was coming to town to live. He had sufficient means himself for his own wants. These reasons, together with his demeanor since the fire, his refusal to purchase a coffin for the charred remains of his children, his running from the scene of the fire, not returning even to see his heart-stricken wife; also statements made by him on the day following which do not appear to coincide with what actually happened. The proceedings before the magistrate were not concluded. The general opinion seems to be that up to the present the evidence is not sufficient for committal.

Parry Sound, Ont., May 10.—Another remand has been ordered in the Parton case to secure the evidence of a witness who lives in the country, and who, being ill, failed to appear this afternoon when the proceedings were resumed. An official of the bank was summoned to prove that since the time of the inquest Parton had drawn money for the benefit of his wife and sons, presumably from the crown's view of the case, that the money might influence their evidence in his behalf.

Mr. Editor, Please inform your many readers that we have just received a fresh supply of the famous Celery King. This is the best remedy we have ever sold for the cure of constipation, and all disorders of the digestive organs. It positively produces a fine, clear complexion. We refund the 25 cents to customers who are dissatisfied. At druggists.

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Feather and Down Cushions 50 Cents Each.

Large stock of Pillows and Mattresses, Iron and Brass Bedsteads and Cushions filled with feathers on the shortest notice. Large assortment of Stoves at Hunt & Sons' Bed and Mattress Cleaning factory, 583 Richmond street. Telephone 397.

## Adding More Trains.

The New York Central, to keep up with the fast increasing passenger business, has had to add more trains to its splendid service, and now has thirteen through trains from Buffalo east bound and fourteen New York west bound. Be sure you get in the swim. 59-bg

## The Indian and the Northwest.

A handsomely illustrated book just issued, bound in cloth and containing 115 pages of interesting historical data relating to the settling of the Northwest, with fine half-tone engravings of Black Hawk, Sitting Bull, Red Cloud and other noted chiefs; Custer's battle-ground, and ten colored maps showing the location of the various tribes, dating back to 1600. A careful review of the book impresses one that it is a valued contribution to the history of these early pioneers, and a copy should be in every library. Price 50 cents per copy. Mailed postage prepaid upon receipt of this amount by W. B. Kniskern, 22 Fifth avenue, Chicago, Ill. 38h t

## Electric Vapor Baths.

Ladies' Vapor Baths, Wednesday and Saturday, with good attendance. Warm Sulphur Baths, 20 cents. Sea Salt Baths and Massage given by an experienced person. Rooms warm and healthful (disinfected). Open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and on Sundays in forenoon. J. G. WILSON, Electrotherapist. ywt

## Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo, N. Y.

Send a two-cent postage stamp to M. C. Dickson, district passenger agent, Grand Trunk Railway System, Toronto, for handsome publication on Pan-American Exposition, maps of grounds and full information. 67f

## SCHWAB'S ADVICE TO THE BOYS.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 10.—Charles M. Schwab, president of the United States Steel Corporation, talking to 300 poor boys in a school last night, told the lads that the road to the dizzy heights of success is to do a little better, and anybody else, do it a little more than to do a little more than one's bare duty, even when working for a "soulless" corporation.

## CLARK &amp; SMITH.

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